

## **Welcome To Kimeldorf's Exposure Blend Photoshop Action**

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*Most people find the outcome of my little action to be very similar to photomatix...certainly cheaper...and I think a bit easier since it you just mouse click away. I don't charge for this action as re-payment for all the people who helped me along the way.*

### **Introductory Notes**

#### Place Action In Photoshop Folder

Place the action in your actions folder as per your version of Photoshop. See help menu if unsure. On my measly Photoshop CS 1 the directions are: Place “.atn” file in the Photoshop Actions Folder Photoshop folder→Presets→Photoshop Actions (drag it into this folder)

#### Put camera in Aperture Priority or Manual and set to your preferred f-stop and ISO.

Using Manual or Aperture priority means the camera will vary the shutter speed or ISO or whatever, but not the aperture. That way you avoid getting images with different depth of fields due to different apertures.

I like to use auto-bracketing to take three frames with different exposures: normal, under exposed and over exposed. Make sure the auto-bracket is set so the images are at least 1.5 stops apart from normal.

I also like to run auto-bracket in the fast sequential shooting mode to automatically take the 3 images quickly. This insures the fewest changes in the scene between images.

In addition, I use a remote cable to avoid moving the camera. That way I get a quick snap of all three exposures without touching the camera to reset speed for bracketing and thus possible alter the camera position.)

Using a tripod (or resting the camera on an object) is essential to avoid difference between frames, unless you are shooting fast (over 1/250) in good light.

***The following notes are also embedded in the action to prompt you***

#### Prepare a file with two images labeled as Under and Over Exposed

Place both the under exposed and over exposed image in a new Photoshop file. Neither file should be locked as a background layers, so unlock any background layer by double clicking on them. Make sure the over exposed layer is labeled as such and sits on top of the under exposed file.

#### In the end you will get 3 image version to choose from:

- 1) The basic Composite or exposure blend
- 2) the same composite with shadow recovery applied
- 3) The shadow recovery image with soft light blend applied for more contrast.

You then take your final image and apply noise reduction if needed and then sharpen.

Sometimes I'll take my middle exposure from the 3 bracketed shots and paint back in some detail in a critical areas if I think it needs it.

Note—If the sequence does not work well...and this has only happened 10% of the time—I reverse the order of over and under exposed image, changing the labels at the same time.

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